

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Healthcare Innovation Steering Committee

Special Meeting Summary
Tuesday, April 22, 2014

Members Present: LG Nancy Wyman (Chair); Patricia Baker; Jeffrey G. Beadle; Bernadette Kelleher; Suzanne Lagarde; Robin Lamott Sparks; Alta Lash; Courtland G. Lewis; Robert McLean; Jane McNichol; Michael Michaud (for Patricia Rehmer); Frances Padilla; Thomas Raskauskas; Jan VanTassel; Victoria Veltri; Thomas Woodruff

Members Absent: Tamim Ahmed; Raegan M. Armata; Mary Bradley; Roderick L. Bremby; Patrick Charmel; Anne Melissa Dowling; Anne Foley; Jewel Mullen; Patricia Rehmer; Frank Torti; Michael Williams

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Welcome and roll call

Participants were asked to introduce themselves.

Review and approval of March 24 meeting summary

Motion to accept the minutes from the March 24th Steering Committee Meeting – Patricia Baker; seconded by Victoria Veltri.

There was no discussion.

Vote: all in favor – none opposed – 1 abstention.

Review and approval of revised “Key Points Related to Independent Advocate Concerns

The Committee reviewed the latest version of the “Key Points” document. Changes included establishing two consumer positions on the Steering Committee which is realized at the meeting with the addition of Alta Lash and Robin Lamott Sparks. They were both welcomed to the Steering Committee and encouraged to provide input.

Motion to approve the revised “Key Points Related to Independent Advocate Concerns” – Jan VanTassel; seconded by Victoria Veltri

There was no discussion.

Vote: all in favor – none opposed.

Approval of four nominees to the Consumer Advisory Board

The Committee was directed to the first few pages of the nominee packet, which provides background on the four individuals the Consumer Advisory Board is recommending for membership. There was the option of either the Chair asking for a motion or the Committee voting to enter into executive session to discuss any of the candidates. LG Wyman asked if anyone wanted to discuss any of the nominees. There was no request to enter into executive session.

Motion to approve the four nominees to the Consumer Advisory Board – Jane McNichol; seconded by Patricia Baker.

There was no discussion.

Vote: all in favor.

Workgroup composition and nominees

Michael Michaud, chair of the Personnel Subcommittee provided an update on their process. He described the April 9th meeting as truly deliberative and not a matter of rubber stamping recommendations. Not all subcommittee members agreed but they were able to move forward. The recommendations the subcommittee approved were:

- Practice Transformation Task Force – increasing the number of consumer and advocate representatives by two (from four to six)
- Equity and Access Council – 1) due to a lack of hospital applicants, filling the vacancy with an additional physician; 2) due to Medicare's inability to provide a representative, filling the vacancy with the Healthcare Advocate (Victoria Veltri) and appointing her co-chair; 3) adding an ex-officio seat for the Consumer Advisory Board
- Quality Council – 1) retaining the state agency representatives as voting members; 2) adding three practicing physicians

Review and approval of April 9 Personnel Subcommittee meeting summary

There was discussion as to whether the Committee could approve the minutes of the April 9 Personnel Subcommittee, as the subcommittee is not likely to meet again. It was suggested the Committee vote to accept the subcommittee's report.

Motion to accept the report of the Personnel Subcommittee of April 9th – Robert McLean; seconded by Victoria Veltri

There was no discussion.

Vote: all in favor.

There was a request for clarification of the next two bullet points. The first item calls for the approval of changes to the workgroup composition. The second item calls for the approval of the slate of nominees.

Review and approval of Personnel Subcommittee recommendations for changes to workgroup composition

Motion to add two voting consumer/advocate representatives to the Quality Council – Jan VanTassel; seconded by Jane McNichol

There was extensive discussion on adding two additional consumer/advocate representatives to the Quality Council. Those in favor of the motion spoke of restoring balance to a council in light of the Personnel Subcommittee's recommendation to increase the practicing physician representation to six members. One of the Committee's principles in composing the workgroups was that the representation be balanced and proportional. Increasing the consumer/advocate representation would help restore balance. Others in favor of the motion said that future discussions of metrics would be much broader than what has been discussed to date and that patients could contribute a great deal on patient engagement, experience, and outreach measures. It was also suggested that the council would not be inventing new metrics, but rather selecting between existing metrics used by CMS, NCQA, and the Joint Commission.

Those against the motion suggested that the representatives be non-voting ex-officio members. They suggested that "balanced and proportionate" may not make sense for every group. There was concern that the members have the technical expertise and background to move the work forward.

The decisions made by the council would impact the way physicians practice medicine. There was also a concern that allowing a larger number of consumers/advocates to vote on the council's decisions could cause a liability.

There was a request to amend the motion so that the additional members would be non-voting. Committee members were advised to vote against the existing motion if they preferred the additional representatives be non-voting members. If the motion failed, they could then make a motion to appoint two ex-officio members.

Vote: eleven in favor – three opposed.

Motion to approve the recommendation from Mary Bradley to appoint an employer representative to the Practice Transformation Task Force – Jan VanTassel; seconded by Victoria Veltri

There was a request for the rationale behind the recommendation. The idea is that employers, particularly employers with self-funded health plans, are investing in proposed transformation activities and that they have the long view on employee health and well being. Both the New England and Connecticut Business Groups on Health are invested in this area and the thought is that an employer representative would help encourage reforms. Additionally, there is a Millbank report that suggests CMMI values employer buy-in in the innovation process.

It was suggested that the representative come from an employer with a significant employee base in Connecticut such as Pitney Bowes or UTC. Mary Bradley, who is Director of Healthcare Planning for Pitney Bowes, knows of a number of employers who would be interested in serving on the task force and could make a recommendation.

Vote: all in favor.

Motion to approve the Personnel Subcommittee's recommendations for changes to workgroup composition – Robert McLean; seconded by Victoria Veltri

There was no additional discussion.

Vote: all in favor.

Review and approval of the consumer/advocate and provider nominees to the Practice Transformation Task Force, the Quality Council, and the Equity and Access Council.

The Program Management Office shared the slate of nominees with the Committee. The Consumer Advisory Board recommended consumer and advocate representatives and the Personnel Subcommittee recommended provider representatives. The additional consumer representatives to the Quality Council and the employer representative on the Practice Transformation Task Force will be handled separately. The Program Management Office is not proposing that the Committee vote on state agency or health plan representatives, barring any objections.

Motion to approve the consumer/advocate and provider nominees to the Practice Transformation Task Force, the Quality Council, and the Equity and Access Council – Patricia Baker; seconded by Victoria Veltri.

There was no discussion.

Vote: all in favor, none opposed, one abstention.

Adjournment

The Committee will next meet on Thursday (April 24) at 10 a.m. in Room 310 at the State Capitol.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.